

Message Text

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ACTION OES-07

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 AID-05 IO-13 DIWY-01 AGRE-00

EB-08 COME-00 SP-02 SS-15 HEW-04 CIAE-00 INR-07

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FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4079

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OPIP, TGEN, TECH, IR

SUBJ: IRAN'S POPULATION AND FAMILY PLANNING PROGRAM

REF STATE 167895

1. SUMMARY: MOST RECENT CENSUS TAKEN IN SEPT 1976 SHOWED IRAN'S TOTAL POPULATION TO BE 33.6 MILLION WITH A GROWTH RATE OF 2.6 PER CENT PER YEAR, AND AN AVERAGE FAMILY SIZE OF FIVE. GOI HAS AN EFFECTIVE FAMILY PLANNING PROGRAM.

2. EMBASSY POPULATION OFFICER (SCIENCE ATTACHE) MET ON AUG 15 WITH TWO KEY OFFICIALS (DR. A. MATIN AND DR. I. ZIAEE) OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH'S DEPARTMENT OF FAMILY PLANNING AND POPULATION WHO KINDLY PROVIDED CURRENT GOI DATA REPORTED HEREIN.

3. THE TOTAL MID-1976 POPULATION OF IRAN WAS DETERMINED BY CENSUS TO BE 33.6 MILLION AND GROWING AT A RATE OF 2.6 PER CENT PER ANNUM. PROGRESS IN FAMILY PLANNING IS DEMONSTRATED BY THE FACT THAT TEN YEARS AGO RATE WAS 3.2 PERCENT. THE GOAL IS TO ACHIEVE A 1.5 PERCENT RATE BY 1995.

4. THE MID-1976 BIRTH AND DEATH RATES WERE 38/1000 AND 13/1000 RESPECTIVELY.

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5. THE AVERAGE FAMILY SIZE IN MID-1976 WAS FIVE AS COMPARED TO SEVEN IN 1966. HOWEVER, IN TEHRAN THE AVERAGE SIZE IN MID-1976 WAS ABOUT 4.5 AS COMPARED TO SIX IN RURAL AREAS.

6. THE POPULATION OF IRAN IS YOUNG WITH 47 PERCENT UNDER 15 YEARS OF AGE.

7. THE GROWTH RATE OF URBANIZATION IN IRAN IS ESTIMATED TO BE 7 PERCENT PER YEAR. THE 1976 CENSUS SHOWED 52 PERCENT OF THE POPULATION IN RAURAL AREAS (OF LESS THAN 5000 POPULATOON) AND THE URBAN 48 PERCENT.

8. APPROXIMATELY 20 PERCENT OF MARRIED WOMEN OF CHILD-BEARING AGE ARE NOW USING SOME FORM OF CONTRACEPTION, WITH THE PILL BEING MOST POPULAR. PILLS, IUD'S AND CONDOMS ARE AVAILABLE FREE OF CHARGE AT MOH CLINICS.

9. MOH ESTIMATES THAT IN LAST FIVE YEARS THEY HAVE, THROUGH THEIR FAMILY PLANNING EFFORTS, PREVENTED 1.3 MILLION BIRTHS. FROM THEIR BUDGET FIGURES, THEY ESTIMATE IT COSTS THE GOI 6,500 RIALS)91 DOLLARS) TO PREVENT ONE BIRTH. IN THE NEXT (SIXTH) FIVE YEAR PLAN, MOH WILL HAVE AN INCREASE IN FUNDING OF 46 PERCENT DEVOTED TO THEIR FAMILY PLANNING PROGRAM, WITH THE FOCUS OF THEIR EFFORTS IN RURAL AREAS.

10. THE GOI'S POPULATION PROGRAM DOES HAVE COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT AND HEALTH DELIVERY SYSTEMS DO INCLUDE FAMILY PLANNING. MOH HAS OVER 2,600 FMILY PLANNING CLINICS AND 50 MOBILE UNITS.

11. CURRENT DONOR ASSISTANCE IS SMALL BUT ADEQUATE.

12. GOI IS MAKING PROGRASS IN ALL PROCESSES CITED IN PARA THREE
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REFTEL WHICH TEND TO MODERATE FERTILITY LEVEL, ESPECIALLY IN MCPROMOTING BETTER AND WIDER EDUCATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES. SEX EDUCATION IS BEING INTRODUCED INTO SCHOOL CURRICULA.

13. RECENT LEGISLATION LEGALIZED ABORTION AND STERILIZATION IN IRAN.

14. AN IMPORTANT FACTOR ALSO IS THAT ISLAMIC LEADERS IN IRAN HAVE GENERALLY AGREED TO FAMILY PLANNING. THE SHAH HAS GIVEN CONTINUED AND STRONG SUPPORT FOR THE GOI'S FAMILY PLANNING PROGRAM. THE WOMEN'S HEALTH CORPS HAS BEEN PARTICULARLY EFFECTIVE.

15. CONCERNING QUESTIONS IN PARA FOUR REFTTEL RE FOOD, LOCAL FOOD PRODUCTION WILL PROBABLY CHANGE VERY LITTLE, AT LEAST IN NEAR FUTUE. DEVELOPMENT PLAN TARGET A SIX PERCENT GROWTH RATE IN AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTION. IMPORTS OF FOOD ARE EXPECTED TO INCREASE AND GOI SEEMS TO HAVE ABILITY TO PAY FOR THESE. FOOD STORAGE CAPACITY IS BEING PUSHED TO THE LIMIT. THERE IS A FURTHER NEED FOR MORE COLD STORAGE FACILITIES. INTERNAL TRANSPORTATION IS A BOTTLENECK WITH INSUFFICIENT RAIL LINKS AND NOT ENOUGH TRUCKS. NEW DOCK/PORT FACILITIES NOW UNDER CONSTRUCTION IN

PERSIAN GULF WILL HELP MOVEMENT OF FOOD SUPPLIES CONSIDERABLY.
SULLIVAN

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Message Attributes

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